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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A storage system comprising:
a container having a wall with an outer surface and an inner surface and a first open end, said container defining an interior;
a closure lid configured to be inserted within said open end and adapted to engage in a sealing relationship with said inner surface; and
a compression link having a container engagement surface and a closure lid engagement surface, said compression link being configured to engage between said closure lid and said inner surface to retain said closure lid in sealing engagement with said container, said container engagement surface and said closure lid engagement surface being configured to extend outwardly from each other, said container engagement surface being adapted to engage said inner surface and said closure lid engagement surface being adapted to engage said closure lid such that, said closure lid is retained in sealing engagement with said inner surface.
2. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 1, wherein said inner surface has a closure lid retention ledge formed thereon, and wherein said container engagement surface of said compression link is adapted to engage said closure lid retention ledge.
3. (Original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein said closure lid has a stepped outer surface defining an annular region, and wherein said compression link is adapted to be received within said annular region.
4. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 1, wherein said inner surface has a recess formed therein for receiving at least a portion of said compression link.

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5. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 1, further comprising a backing member adapted to be inserted between said closure lid and said compression link such that insertion therebetween urges said compression link radially outwardly from said closure lid and positions said container engagement surface of said compression link for engagement with said inner surface.
6. (Original) The storage system of claim 1, further comprising:
an outer lid configured for engaging a distal end of said container such that said closure lid is disposed between said outer lid and said interior.
7. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 1, further comprising:
a bearing member configured to fit between said closure lid engagement surface and said container engagement surface of said compression link, wherein said bearing member engages said closure lid.
8. (Original) The storage system of claim 1, further comprising:
an exothermic material, wherein said exothermic material has been inserted within said container and sealed therein.
9. (Original) The storage system of claim 6, wherein said outer lid has a lid hold-down member associated therewith for retaining said outer lid in sealing engagement with said container.
10. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 7, wherein said closure lid has a stepped outer surface, said stepped outer surface being adapted to engage said bearing member.
11. (Original) The storage system of claim 8, wherein said exothermic material is spent nuclear fuel.

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12. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 9, wherein said outer surface has a recess formed therein, and wherein said hold-down member has a retention ledge configured to engage said recess.

13-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for storing a material comprising:
providing a container having a single wall with an inner surface and an outer surface, and a first open end, said container defining an interior;
providing a closure lid adapted to be received within the open end and adapted to engage in a sealing relationship with said inner surface;
providing a compression link having a container engagement surface and a closure lid engagement surface; and
engaging said compression link between said closure lid and said inner surface such that said closure lid is retained by placing a portion of the closure lid under compression and a corresponding portion of inner surface under tension.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:
providing an outer lid configured for engaging a distal end of the container such that the closure lid is disposed between the outer lid and the interior; and
retaining the outer lid in sealing engagement with the container.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:
providing a backing member; and
inserting the backing member between the closure lid and the compression link such that insertion therebetween urges the compression link radially outwardly from the closure lid.

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21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:
providing a bearing member;
inserting the bearing member between a portion of the compression link; and
engaging said bearing member with said closure lid.
22. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:
inserting an exothermic material within the container prior to sealing the closure lid.
23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the exothermic material is spent nuclear fuel.
24. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 10, wherein said stepped outer surface is made of a surface harder than said bearing member.
25. (Previously Presented) A storage system comprising:
a container having a wall and a first open end, said wall having an inner surface and an outer surface;
a closure lid configured to be inserted within said open end and adapted to engage in a sealing relationship with said inner surface;
a compression link having a container engagement surface and a closure lid engagement surface, said compression link being configured to engage between said closure lid and said inner surface to retain said closure lid in sealing engagement with said container; and
an outer lid configured to engage a distal end of said container, wherein said outer lid has a lid hold-down member associated therewith for retaining said outer lid by exerting force on said outer surface of said wall of said container.
26. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 1, wherein said closure lid lacks holes for mechanical fasteners.

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27. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 25, wherein said container is a single-walled container.
28. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 25, further comprising a backing member adapted to be inserted between said closure lid and said compression link such that insertion therebetween urges said compression link radially outwardly from said closure lid and positions said container engagement surface of said compression link for engagement with said inner surface.
29. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 25, wherein said inner surface has a recess formed therein for receiving at least a portion of said compression link.
30. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 25, further comprising:
a bearing member configured to fit between said closure lid engagement surface and said closure lid engagement surface, wherein said bearing member engages said closure lid.
31. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 25, wherein said closure lid has a stepped outer surface for receiving said bearing member.
32. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 25, wherein said outer surface has a recess formed therein, and wherein said lid hold-down member has a retention ledge configured to engage said recess.
33. (Previously Added) The storage system of claim 25, further comprising:
an exothermic material, wherein said exothermic material has been inserted within said container and sealed therein.
34. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 33, wherein said exothermic material is spent nuclear fuel.

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35. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 33, further comprising:
a basket configured to be inserted within said container for storing said exothermic material, wherein said basket is comprised of a neutron absorbing material.